



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 8, 2021

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### **COVID-19 Vaccine Update and Notice for Phase 1a Personnel Not Affiliated with a Healthcare System**

FOND DU LAC, WI – The COVID-19 vaccination program will follow prioritization guidelines and recommendations set forth by the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the WI State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC). In anticipation of increased vaccine availability locally, Fond du Lac County Health Department is putting out a call to independent healthcare workers who need a COVID-19 vaccine and are not employed by a facility who can vaccinate them.

Currently, rollout of COVID-19 vaccine is for those in Phase 1a of the COVID-19 vaccination program. Distribution groups and timelines are tentative and subject to change due to guiding recommendations, FDA approval of vaccines, and vaccine allocation/availability.

- Phase 1a includes frontline health care workers and long-term care facility staff and residents. This phase includes individuals who provide direct patient service or engage in healthcare services that place them into contact with patients who are able to transmit SARS-CoV-2, and/or infectious material containing SARS-CoV-2 virus. See [Phase 1a](#) guidance provided by the Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee for definitions and categories currently eligible for vaccine.
- Phase 1b may include individuals age 75 and older, and frontline essential workers (non-healthcare). This definition is being determined and subject to change, but may include sectors such as first responders (e.g., firefighters and police officers), corrections officers, food and agricultural workers, U.S. Postal Service workers, manufacturing workers, grocery store workers, public transit workers, and those who work in the education sector (teachers and support staff members) as well as child care workers.
- Phase 1c may include individuals ages aged 65-74, individuals aged 16-64 with high-risk medical conditions, and essential workers not included in Phase 1B, this may include sectors such as those in transportation and logistics, water and wastewater, food service, shelter and housing (e.g., construction), finance (e.g., bank tellers), information technology and communications, energy, legal, media, public safety (e.g., engineers), and public health workers.
- Phase 2 may include the remainder of Phase 1, critical populations, and general population. An announcement will be made when vaccine supplies reach a point that allows providers to begin taking appointments and administering COVID-19 vaccinations to community members.

Following the prioritized approach, Fond du Lac County Health Department in collaboration with Agnesian HealthCare, a member of SSM Health, are working together to provide COVID-19 vaccine to Phase 1a frontline healthcare personnel that are not affiliated with a healthcare system, hospital, or long-term care facility. **Earlier this week local emergency medical responders started receiving their first dose of the COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine.**

“We’ve reached a point where we can begin vaccination clinics for additional frontline health care workers not affiliated with a healthcare system who play an important role in keeping our community healthy,” says Kim Mueller, Health Officer. “It is heartening to begin vaccinating more groups in our community who are in need of a



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vaccine. We continue planning for safe vaccine distribution efforts as vaccine availability grows.”

***Notice for Phase 1a Health Care Personnel Not Affiliated with a Healthcare System***

The health department asks that individuals who meet the [Phase 1a](#) definition and are not yet matched with a vaccinator submit their information on the Fond du Lac County Health Department [COVID-19 Vaccine webpage](#). The health department will follow-up with individuals who submit their information and notify them when vaccine clinics are available for those who meet eligibility.

***Vaccine is Not Yet Available to the General Public***

It will take time for everyone who wants a COVID-19 vaccine to get one. The health department is committed to keeping the public informed and updates will be shared as information becomes available. At this time there is no waitlist or registration list for the community at large. Fond du Lac County organizations or individuals who have questions about eligibility can call or email Fond du Lac County Health Department at 920-929-3085 or [health@fdlco.wi.gov](mailto:health@fdlco.wi.gov)

While the vaccine may prevent you from getting sick, it is unknown at this time if you can still carry and transmit the virus to others. Until more is understood about how well the vaccine works, continue with precautions such as mask-wearing, physical distancing and practicing good hand hygiene.

***COVID-19 Testing***

Access to testing continues to be available through support provided by the National Guard with drive-thru testing on Thursdays from 10:00am-6:00pm at the Fond du Lac County Fairgrounds, located at 520 Fond du Lac Ave., Fond du Lac. This free testing opportunity will be available through March 4, 2021.

For more information on vaccines, testing, and county statistics, please visit the [Fond du Lac County Health Department COVID-19 website](#) or the [Wisconsin Department of Health Services website](#).

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